



Homeland Security

Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 8 January 2010

Current Nationwide Threat Level

ELEVATED

Significant Risk of Terrorist Attacks

For information, click here:
<http://www.dhs.gov>

Top Stories

- NBC News, msnbc.com, and the Associated Press report that three people are dead and five have been wounded after a man armed with an assault rifle and a handgun opened fire Thursday at Swiss-based ABB Group’s plant in St. Louis. The company manufactures transformers at the site. (See item [7](#))
- According to the Los Angeles Times, another envelope containing a suspicious substance was discovered at the University of California, Irvine on Wednesday, the fifth such letter found on campus this week. (See item [21](#))

Fast Jump Menu

PRODUCTION INDUSTRIES

- [Energy](#)
- [Chemical](#)
- [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#)
- [Critical Manufacturing](#)
- [Defense Industrial Base](#)
- [Dams](#)

SUSTENANCE and HEALTH

- [Agriculture and Food](#)
- [Water](#)
- [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

SERVICE INDUSTRIES

- [Banking and Finance](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Postal and Shipping](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Communications](#)
- [Commercial Facilities](#)

FEDERAL and STATE

- [Government Facilities](#)
- [Emergency Services](#)
- [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) - <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 7, KOCO 5 Oklahoma City* – (Oklahoma) **OG&E: down to 75 without power.** More than 30,000 electricity customers were without power for hours late Wednesday into Thursday as temperatures plummeted across the state. An OG&E spokesman told Eyewitness News 5 Wednesday night that the outage was caused by a problem with a transmission line that supplies power to northwest parts of the

Oklahoma City metro area. As of 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, 75 OG&E customers were without power.

Source: <http://www.koco.com/mostpopular/22167447/detail.html>

2. *January 7, Shreveport Times* – (Louisiana) **Barksdale pipeline explosion kills civilian worker.** One person is dead as a result of a natural gas pipeline explosion about 5:20 p.m. on January 6 in a remote, sparsely settled area on the southeast side of Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana. The dead person, whose identity had not been released, is a civilian who did not work for the Defense Department, a 2nd Bomb Wing spokeswoman said. The explosion occurred near Union-Texas Road, which runs north off Sligo Road in the southern part of the parish near the base fence, Bossier sheriff's officials said. The area is miles from Barksdale's inhabited cantonment, runway and weapons storage area. "The fire is under control. The cause of the fire is under investigation. They're out there in the dark trying to figure it out," the spokeswoman said at one point after nightfall on January 6. Military and Bossier sheriff's investigators brought in lights to illuminate the area. The site of the explosion is in the middle of Sligo Field, a natural gas formation that has been tapped since the 1920s. The area is leased to private developers through the Bureau of Land Management and is home to close to 200 natural gas wells, according to published reports.

Source:

<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/article/20100107/NEWS10/1070317/Barksdale-pipeline-explosion-kills-civilian-worker>

3. *January 7, Portland Tribune* – (Oregon) **Power outage disrupts MAX trains.** A fire at a Northeast Portland commercial power substation early Thursday morning has disrupted downtown MAX trains running through the Rose Quarter and Union Station. TriMet says the trains are experiencing 15- to 20-minute delays going through the Rose Quarter area because signals and switches were affected by the power outage. The fire began at about 3:35 a.m. in a Pacific Power and Light electrical distribution facility near North Clark and Interstate avenues. Portland firefighters said that a piece of equipment in the substation apparently malfunctioned and exploded, spreading about 1,200 gallons of mineral oil (used as a coolant) around the area. The oil was ignited by the explosion and burned vigorously. Firefighters isolated the area and let the fire burn and awaited the arrival of PPL employees. PPL turned off the power to the area at about 5:45 a.m. and firefighters extinguished the blaze about 10 minutes later. The mineral oil was contained in an oil water separator on the site. Trains on the Green and Yellow lines are not going across the Steel Bridge, according to TriMet. They are looping on Fifth and Sixth avenues and operating regularly except for some delays on the east side.

Source:

http://www.theoutlookonline.com/news/story.php?story_id=126287770722610600

4. *January 6, Midland Reporter-Telegram* – (Texas) **Investigation nabs seven in theft of \$900,000 worth of copper wire.** A two-month-long investigation has helped local investigators with the Ector County Sheriff's Office and the area Oilfield Theft Task Force make seven arrests in connection with the recent theft of \$900,000 worth of

copper wire and damages. Authorities said they were able to obtain some of the wire stolen but not all of it. The FBI said the group was stealing the wiring from different storage yards and reselling it to reclamation yards where it would be recycled and they would be paid by the pound. An agent with the FBI said that is the only value the stolen wire really has; copper wire is part of larger equipment used to run power to larger pieces out on oilfields. While this is not the largest case with the most arrests made by the task force, it is one of the bigger ones with a significant amount of wire that was stolen. The task force has been in existence for the past 18 months and consists of one deputy from each county involved — Midland, Ector and Andrews — as well as agents with the FBI. It is the only one of its kind in the nation and has been successful, according to authorities, in combating the ongoing theft cases and well as making the flow of information between all the involved agencies “seamless.”

Source:

http://www.mywesttexas.com/articles/2010/01/06/news/top_stories/oilfield_task_force_arrests.txt

For more stories, see items [16](#) and [36](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

5. *January 5, Birmingham News* – (Alabama) **Rail tanker ruptures, spills sodium chlorate in Birmingham.** A Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railway tanker ruptured and spilled dry sodium chlorate, according to Birmingham Fire and Rescue. The spill happened at the company’s facility at 1801 Fourth Street West, said a fire battalion chief. The amount was described as a chute full of the substance. Sodium chlorate is an oxidizing agent used to make chlorine dioxide for bleaching and stripping of textiles, pulp, and paper, the chief said. It is also used to disinfect and purify water. He said it is harmful if ingested. “As long as it’s isolated and not mixed with organic materials we should be able to contain,” he said. He said the Emergency Management Agency was responding.

Source: http://blog.al.com/spotnews/2010/01/rail_tanker_ruptures_spills_so.html

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste Sector

6. *January 6, Global Security Newswire* – (International) **Canada requests more HEU for isotope production.** Canada last month ordered 36 pounds of U.S. highly enriched uranium to help resume medical isotope production at its Chalk River reactor, the Ottawa Citizen reported. The request — made to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission by the state-managed firm overseeing the National Research Universal reactor site — was made as the Chalk River facility prepared to resume operations this March for the first time since it suspended work last May. If approved, the HEU order is expected to take about one year to fulfill. One expert criticized the request, arguing

that Ottawa has done little to pursue a means of generating medical isotopes that does not rely on bomb-grade uranium. Even so, Canada could make nuclear nonproliferation a top focus of a Group of Eight summit it is set to host this summer. “When it comes to reducing risks of nuclear terrorism, Canada should practice what it preaches,” said the head of the nuclear nonproliferation program at the University of Texas at Austin. Canada continues to hold a quantity of U.S.-origin highly enriched uranium that was not used at the Chalk River reactor prior to the suspension of operations. In addition, the nation still holds nearly 100 pounds of bomb-grade material provided by the United States to operate two Canadian nuclear reactors mothballed in 2008.

Source: http://www.globalsecuritynewswire.org/gsn/nw_20100106_4846.php

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Critical Manufacturing Sector

7. *January 7, NBC News, msnbc.com, and Associated Press* – (Missouri) **3 dead after rampage at St. Louis plant.** Three people are dead and five have been wounded after a man armed with an assault rifle and a handgun opened fire at a St. Louis manufacturing plant. The police captain confirmed the number. Citing two unidentified sources, NBC station KSDK reported that the suspect had been “found and removed from the building.” The gunman is believed to have shot himself, according to the report. The police captain said the suspected shooter, of Webster Groves, Missouri, is an employee of the plant. KMOX radio said he had worked for the company for 23 years. The rampage began around 6:30 a.m. during a shift change at Swiss-based ABB Group’s plant in St. Louis and 40 to 50 people were likely in the plant at the time. As shots began to ring out, employees scurried to find safety. “Many of them sought safety on the roof, in boilers and broom closets,” the police captain said. A two-mile perimeter was established around the plant and Interstate 70 was shut down. The St. Louis Fire Department set up a staging area near the plant with six ambulances on standby. The Post-Dispatch reported that the suspect was a plaintiff in a class-action federal lawsuit against ABB and its pension review committee over financial losses. Police had been told the shooter was carrying an ammunition belt. Swiss-based ABB Group makes power transmission and industrial automation equipment. The company manufactures transformers at the St. Louis site, according to its Web site.

Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/34746925/ns/us_news-crime_and_courts/

8. *January 6, Warren Tribune Chronicle* – (Ohio) **Niles men arrested in break-in.** Three Niles men were arrested just after 11 p.m. Monday after police claim they caught them inside the vacant Delphi Packard Electric plant in Warren. It was the third time in two weeks that people were caught inside the 408 Dana St. N.E. plant, with previous break-ins occurring December 21 and 29. They each were arraigned Tuesday in Warren Municipal Court on felony charges of breaking and entering and possession of criminal tools. On December 21, three Warren men were arrested after being caught outside the plant carrying stolen copper. On December 29, a man and woman were arrested inside the vacant plant about 2 a.m. after officers were called to the area to investigate two people seen on the railroad tracks. Following the first break-in at the plant December

21, a councilman said he was concerned about the lack of security at the former Delphi plant. He said all the lights along the side facing the Powerhouse Bar had been shot off, and it was extremely dark. He requested a meeting between Delphi security personnel, the police chief, fire chief and the administration to discuss the issue. “That plant is going to be stripped clean, and no one will want to buy it,” he said.

Source: <http://www.tribtoday.com/page/content.detail/id/531901.html?nav=5021>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

9. *January 7, Aviation Week* – (National) **U.S. Army speeds swap of old for new Chinooks.** The U.S. Army is hustling to make up a 50-aircraft deficit of Chinook CH-47Fs that looks to stretch until fiscal 2013, according to an outgoing Army program manager. “These are very scarce assets, especially in theater,” the Colonel told reporters at a Boeing luncheon near Washington Jan. 5. “We’re ramping up to meet those needs.” Chinook F-model production is at about 2.5 aircraft per month, he said, and the goal is to increase to 3.5 aircraft per month next year. The program is in the third year of a five-year contract. The requirement is for 452 aircraft, a one-for-one swap with the current D-model fleet, which is suffering due to its age. Boeing said 290 aircraft have been delivered or on contract. Five F-model units equipped have been deployed, and the fourth unit was accelerated by two months to meet demand. The colonel cited high operational readiness rates in Afghanistan. In the last six months, he said F-models were averaging 80 to 90 hours per aircraft per month while maintaining readiness rates of 80 to 90 percent. D-model Chinooks were averaging about 70 percent. “Our operational readiness rates in Afghanistan are great,” he said, noting “the total fleet [doesn’t have] those numbers. But our priority is in-theater aircraft.”

Source:

http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aerospacedaily&id=news/asd/2010/01/06/02.xml&headline=U.S. Army Speeds Swap Of Old For New Chinooks

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

10. *January 7, DarkReading* – (National) **Industry group plans cyber attack simulation.** A financial services industry group is planning to simulate a series of cyber attacks to test how well banks, payment processors and retailers deal with online threats. The Financial Services Information Sharing and Analysis Center (FS-ISAC), a group formed in response to a 1998 Presidential security directive, on January 5 invited financial institutions, retailers, card processors, and businesses of all sizes to participate in its Cyber Attack against Payment Processes (CAPP) Exercise. “FS-ISAC in conjunction with a variety of industry partners is testing their members’ emergency response, notification, and communication procedures in response to a number of different types of cyber attacks against payment processes,” the group’s Web site says.

“The three-day exercise will simulate a different attack scenario each day. Detailed result collection is kept confidential.” The CAPP event is scheduled for February 9 through 11, 2010. Participants will be expected to activate their incident response procedures in accordance with the scenario presented and to complete an anonymous survey to evaluate their organization’s response. “When cyber security threats occur, swift and well-planned reactions can mean the difference between business continuity and business catastrophe,” said FS-ISAC’s president and CEO in a statement. “This is especially true with cyber attacks against payment processes. FS-ISAC is eager to provide payment systems participants with this unique opportunity to test their readiness to respond to major cyber attack incidents.” The incidence of such incidents has been rising.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=222200643>

11. *January 6, MetroWest Daily News* – (Massachusetts) **Framingham man charged in \$29m Ponzi scheme.** A Framingham, Massachusetts man’s Ponzi scheme bilked its victims — numbering around 130 and largely from that same area — out of more than \$29 million over 20 years, federal prosecutors said on January 5. The 76 year old suspect was arrested in Mississippi on January 5 and was charged in a criminal complaint with mail fraud, said the U.S. Attorney’s office. The suspect will be arraigned in Massachusetts at a later, unknown date, said a spokeswoman with the U.S. attorney’s office in Boston. A FBI special agent said the suspect conducted business under the name Northeast Sales from an office in an upstairs bedroom at his Ford Lane home in Framingham. The scheme ensnared about 130 investors whose total payout, including principal amounts invested and compounded interest, exceeds more than \$29 million, the criminal complaint says.

Source:

<http://www.metrowestdailynews.com/multimedia/documents/x1530315345/Framingham-man-charged-in-29M-Ponzi-scheme>

12. *January 6, Dalton Daily Citizen* – (Georgia) **Secret Service advises consumers on skimming fraud.** Skimming has been described as one of the most significant problems facing the credit card industry, as it can happen anywhere a credit card is accepted. According to special agents of the U.S. Secret Service’s Atlanta Field Office, the best way for consumers to protect themselves from skimming is by paying attention to the details of credit card usage. “Fraudulent transactions frequently occur within 24 to 48 hours of a compromise, but most cardholders are not aware that they have been victimized until they receive statements showing the fraudulent charges,” said the Special Agent in Charge of the Atlanta Field Office. “That’s why one important step every individual can take is to regularly review your credit card statements online.” When a credit card is skimmed, data on the card, including the account number, is electronically transmitted or stored. The credit card information can then be encoded onto a lost, stolen, or counterfeit credit card and used anywhere in the world.

Source: http://www.daltondailycitizen.com/local/local_story_006113531.html

13. *January 5, Credit.com* – (National) **FTC cracks down on fraudulent credit card pitches.** Consumers are frequently advised to be on the lookout against credit card schemes — and one of the most common red flags in this area comes in the form of unsolicited phone pitches. With that in mind, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has announced an ongoing crackdown on scam artists who use robocalls to pitch phony credit card interest rate reduction plans to financially desperate consumers. “During these difficult economic times, the last thing anyone needs is to be bombarded by robocalls pitching worthless interest-rate reduction programs. The lawsuits announced today are not the first, nor will they be the last, that the agency brings to protect consumers from intrusive, illegal, and deceptive telemarketing robocalls,” said the FTC chairman. Specifically, the FTC reported that it filed lawsuits against three outfits that pitched phony interest rate reduction plans for up-front costs as high as \$1,495. The agency noted that it had stopped a similar scheme last year where people were duped into signing up for phony auto warranties by scam artists using robocalls. Typically, one sign of a financial scam involves a requirement for consumers to pay a substantial up-front fee, which can then be difficult, if not impossible, to recover after a refund is sought. In this particular case, the scammers were also violating the federal Do Not Call law, which is aimed at protecting people from unwanted telemarketing calls and other similar nuisances.
Source: <http://www.credit.com/news/credit-debt/2010-01-05/ftc-cracks-down-on-fraudulent-credit-card-pitches.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

14. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Virginia) **Track inspectors nearly hit by Metro train.** The Tri-State Oversight Committee, which monitors safety at Metro, says a team of inspectors was nearly hit by a Metro train that appeared to be traveling at full speed. In a report released Wednesday, the committee said the train appeared to be making no attempt to slow, as required by agency rules. No one was injured. The incident near Alexandria’s Braddock Road Station last month came days after Metro lifted a six-month ban on monitors’ access to live tracks. Metro officials acknowledged that the train that nearly hit the inspectors was traveling too fast. The report identifies several other safety violations and concludes that Metro’s safety training is inadequate and that the agency must take immediate action to ensure worker safety. Metro officials say the agency has increased training and worker oversight and plans new worker safety rules.
Source: <http://wjz.com/wireapnewsva/Report.IDs.Metro.2.1410428.html>
15. *January 7, Reuters* – (National) **Blowing snow, cold disrupts U.S. Midwest travel.** Light, fluffy snow combined with arctic wind blasts snarled most forms of traffic across the U.S. Midwest on Thursday, a forecaster said. “The big issue is transportation and brutal cold over the next two to three days. It will disrupt the movement of livestock,” a forecaster at DTN Meteorlogix in Boston said. “And overall it’s going to slow air, rail, and automobile transportation as well.” The heaviest band of snow cut across Omaha, Nebraska through Des Moines, Iowa, to Moline, Illinois,

across the Interstate 80 highway, he said. Travel is not advised in the central, south central, and the western areas of Iowa due to treacherous road conditions and restricted visibility, the Iowa Department of Transportation said in a written release on Thursday. Snow accumulation of 2 to 5 inches is expected in the western Midwest with temperatures turning bitterly cold behind the snow. Low visibility caused by blowing snow will continue as wind speeds range between 15 and 25 mph. “Thursday and the next couple of days will be a tough for travel. This weather will certainly affect trucking and rail as they tend to have mechanical problems when it gets this cold,” he said.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6063N920100107>

16. *January 6, Johnstown Tribune-Democrat* – (Pennsylvania) **FAA: Wind farm may pose aviation hazard.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has concerns that half of the turbines proposed for the Shaffer Mountain wind farm overlooking Bedford County could impact operations at the Bedford County Airport. The FAA in a recent finding said that 15 of the farm’s proposed 30 400-foot-tall windmills have the potential to create problems for aviation. “Those 15 are in a location where they could present a hazard to departures from this airport,” an FAA spokeswoman said Wednesday. The FAA findings say that 15 of the turbines “exceed obstruction standards and/or would have an adverse physical or electromagnetic interference effect.” Opponents to the Shaffer Mountain project view the FAA’s initial finding as a glimmer of hope that Gamesa will give up on the project. They say it threatens an ecologically sensitive area in Somerset and Bedford counties. A Gamesa spokeswoman said the Spain-based wind energy company is not quitting Shaffer Mountain. It simply may be a matter of providing the FAA with additional information. The spokeswoman said an FAA review two years ago of the same turbine locations resulted in approval for Shaffer Mountain. Gamesa had to go back to the FAA because the initial ruling expired after 18 months – before construction could begin. The Bedford County Airport is situated on 168 acres of land four miles north of Bedford at Cessna. Designated a business airport, it has no commercial flights, but on average, 40 planes use the facility daily.

Source: http://www.tribune-democrat.com/local/local_story_006230820.html?keyword=topstory

17. *January 6, CNN* – (Oregon) **Fighter jets escort plane after passenger becomes unruly.** Two F-15 fighter jets escorted a passenger jet that had been headed for Hawaii back to Portland International Airport in Oregon after a passenger in coach became “uncooperative,” an airline official said Wednesday. Hawaiian Airlines Flight 39 took off from Portland at 10:10 a.m. with 231 passengers and a crew of 10 when — 90 minutes into the flight — its captain decided to turn around the Boeing 767, said the airline’s vice president of public affairs. The fighter jets intercepted the plane at 1 p.m., North American Aerospace Defense Command said in a written statement. It landed at 1:16 p.m. without further incident, the TSA said. Upon the plane’s return, the passenger — a 56-year-old Salem, Oregon, man — was escorted from the plane with his female companion without incident, the FBI and the Port of Portland said in a joint statement.

The FBI said it was not releasing his name because he had not been charged.

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/01/06/oregon.unruly.passenger/>

18. *January 6, Justice News Flash* – (Illinois) **Cargo jet crashes near Chicago, killing pilot and co-pilot.** Two men aboard a cargo jet en route to Chicago were killed when the aircraft crashed in a Cook County forest preserve, according to information provided by the Chicago Tribune. The small-plane crash occurred on Tuesday afternoon. The two men aboard reportedly left Detroit in a Learjet 35A airplane about 90 minutes prior to the crash. The jet was allegedly scheduled to land at Chicago Executive Airport to eventually pick up cargo in Wheeling, Illinois and transport it to Atlanta by ferry. It was reported that airplane wreck debris were found approximately a mile away from the Chicago airport in a forest preserve. Part of the planes' fuselage was also discovered immersed in the Des Plaines River.
Source: http://www.justiceneWSflash.com/2010/01/07/cargo-plane-crashes-chicago-killing-pilot-copilot_201001072927.html

19. *January 6, Inside GNSS* – (National) **USCG publishes Loran-C termination; DHS says not needed for GPS backup.** The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) will post a notice in the Federal Register February 7 certifying that termination of the Loran-C signal will not adversely affect the safety of maritime navigation and that decommission will begin on February 8 with all Loran stations expected to cease transmitting the Loran-C signal by October 1, 2010. Meanwhile, the Department of Homeland Security has certified that the Loran-C system infrastructure is not needed as a backup to the GPS system or to meet any other federal navigation requirement. Although the Federal Register notice also indicates that a decision has not been made on the need for a GPS backup, the announcement apparently brings to a close a seemingly interminable process of preserving and upgrading the terrestrial radionavigation system to provide an enhanced Loran capability that could serve as a multimodal backup to failures or interference to the Global Positioning System. It flies in the face of an independent assessment team's unanimous recommendation to establish eLoran as a GPS backup, as well as the efforts of navigation counterparts in other nations to implement eLoran. According to the notice signed by the USCG's director of prevention policy, Loran-C is no longer required by the armed forces, the transportation sector, or the nation's security interests, and is used only by a small segment of the population. According to the Federal Register statement, the Loran-C system was not established as, nor was it intended to be, a viable systemic backup for GPS. With respect to transportation — including aviation, commercial maritime, rail, and highway modes — the Department of Transportation has determined that sufficient alternative navigation aids currently exist in the event of a loss of GPS-based services, and therefore Loran currently is not needed as a back-up navigation aid for transportation safety-of-life users, the agencies have concluded.
Source: <http://www.insidegnss.com/node/1806>

20. *January 6, KYW 3 Philadelphia* – (Pennsylvania) **3 Transportation Security Administration bomb sniffing dogs at PHL fail exam.** Three bomb-sniffing dogs assigned to inspect cargo at Philadelphia International Airport failed recent

recertification tests and federal officials should immediately replace them, a Pennsylvania congressman said. He sent a letter Tuesday to the acting TSA administrator, urging her “to immediately replace the three dogs on duty at PHL with certified animals so that passengers and cargo flying out of our airport can do so safely.” There also are 10 TSA-certified Philadelphia police dogs assigned to the airport. A TSA spokesman said the agency could not comment on the status of its dogs. He said, however, that the rigorous nature of yearly certification tests means that some of the nation’s 700 TSA-led dog teams deployed in air, marine and mass transportation systems may not pass and must go through a remedial program. In the meantime, other layers of security are employed, the spokesman said. TSA-led teams concentrate on cargo screening while law enforcement-led teams handle all areas of the airport and spend part of their time supporting cargo inspection.

Source: <http://cbs3.com/local/Philadelphia.Airport.TSA.2.1409644.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [28](#), and [36](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *January 6, Los Angeles Times* – (California) **Fifth letter containing suspicious substance found at UC Irvine.** Another envelope containing a suspicious substance was discovered at UC Irvine on January 6, the fifth such letter found on campus this week. In the latest case, an assistant to an associate professor of arts felt something granular in an envelope she was about to open and notified authorities. Like all the suspicious envelopes discovered since Monday at UC Irvine, it had an Idaho postmark. Campus officials said they have taken steps to scrutinize incoming mail and sent out warnings to not open unexpected letters from Idaho. Tests on the substances in the previous letters, which included the message “black death,” found them to be harmless. Nevertheless, today’s incident was handled like the others — by an Orange County Fire Authority hazardous materials team. All five letters were sent to faculty members in a variety of departments. Aside from that, a pattern as to who is being targeted has yet to emerge, said a university spokeswoman. “At first the only pattern was that they were all women,” she said. “This latest one” — sent to a male associate professor of arts — “breaks that pattern.”

Source: <http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/01/5th-letter-containing-suspicious-powder-found-at-uci.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

22. *January 7, Farm Press* – (International) **Taiwan bars some U.S. beef imports.** The President is “deeply disappointed” with a decision by Taiwan’s legislative body to amend its laws to prohibit imports of some U.S. beef and beef products into the country. The move came after months of efforts by the U.S. government to expand the

market for such products following a ruling by another branch of the Taiwanese government — and the World Animal Health Organization — that the products are safe. Taiwan agreed to allow full access to U.S. beef last October, but reversed that decision Jan. 5 with a vote by the Legislative Yuan to amend the Food Sanitation Act (FSA) to ban U.S. ground beef and offal. “As we noted in our statement on December 29, the FSA amendment’s provisions do not have a basis in science and constitute a unilateral violation of a bilateral agreement concluded in good faith by the United States with Taiwan a little over two months ago,” the office of the U.S. Trade Representative and USDA said in a statement.

Source: <http://deltafarmpress.com/legislative/beef-restrictions-0107/>

23. *January 7, Reuters* – (Florida) **Most of Florida citrus escaped freeze damage: report.** With about 25 percent of the current citrus harvest in, “some damage” had been reported to trees’ fruit, twigs and leaves, but this was not judged catastrophic for Florida’s \$9.3 billion citrus industry, Florida Citrus Mutual said. “The bulk of the crop has been spared,” the group’s spokesman told Reuters, although he said it was too early to be able to give specific estimates and reports from the field were still coming in. Florida’s citrus industry produces more than three-quarters of the U.S. orange crop, and accounts for about 40 percent of the world’s orange juice supply. Weather forecasters are predicting another pocket of arctic air moving into the southern United States at the weekend and Florida growers are worried about the possibility of a renewed freeze damage threat over the nights of Saturday and Sunday.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6062WS20100107>

24. *January 6, Grand Rapids Press* – (Michigan) **Boiler malfunction caused workers to fall ill at Kentwood plant, fire chief says.** Eight people fell ill Wednesday in a span of seven hours when a boiler malfunction emitted high levels of carbon monoxide at an industrial plant in Kenwood, Michigan, the local fire chief said. Workers in the mechanical room of Kerry Sweet Ingredients reported headaches, nausea and breathing problems and at least six were briefly hospitalized for evaluation. Authorities were called to the plant about 10:20 a.m., but one worker went home ill about 3 a.m. It is believed his symptoms were related to the carbon monoxide problem. The illnesses were nonlife-threatening, the chief said. The plant was not evacuated and there was no public safety risk, authorities said. One worker on a granola bar-making line said they were notified of the illnesses, but work continued. Plant maintenance workers vented the mechanical room and were calling technicians to determine the boiler failure.

Source: http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2010/01/boiler_malfunction_caused_work.html

25. *January 6, Food Poison Journal* – (National) **Outbreak of E. coli O157:H7 infections associated with beef from National Steak and Poultry.** Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is collaborating with public health officials in several states and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to investigate a multistate outbreak of human infections due to Escherichia coli O157:H7 (E. coli O157:H7). As of 5:00 PM EDT, Monday, January 4, 2010, 21 persons infected with the outbreak strain of E. coli O157:H7 had been reported from 16 states.

Known illness onset dates range from October 3, 2009 through December 14, 2009. Most patients became ill between mid-October and late November. In early December 2009, CDC's PulseNet staff identified a multistate cluster of 14 E. coli O157:H7 isolates with a particular DNA fingerprint or pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern reported from 13 states. CDC's OutbreakNet team began working with state and local partners to gather epidemiologic information about persons in the cluster to determine if any of the ill individuals had been exposed to the same food source(s). At this time, at least some of the illnesses appear to be associated with products subject to a recent FSIS recall. On December 24, 2009, FSIS issued a notice about a recall of 248,000 pounds of beef products from National Steak and Poultry that may be contaminated with E. coli O157:H7.

Source: <http://www.foodpoisonjournal.com/2010/01/articles/foodborne-illness-outbreaks/outbreak-of-e-coli-o157h7-infections-associated-with-beef-from-national-steak-and-poultry-updated-january-6-2010/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

26. *January 7, Lexington Herald-Leader* – (Kentucky) **Workers find and fix major leak, restoring water to Perry County.** Hazard's water tanks nearly bottomed out Wednesday morning. At 8 a.m., the city was making plans to shut down the whole system and to bring in leak-detection equipment and help from Kentucky American Water. Instead, by Wednesday afternoon, crews had repaired a leak, the treatment plant intake had thawed, and the city was on its way to refilling the storage tanks. As of Wednesday night, the problem was solved. The Hazard City water superintendent said a valve malfunctioned, probably because of the cold weather. The pipe was several feet beneath the pavement. Buckhorn, home to about 300 people, had been without water for more than a week.

Source: <http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3763690>

27. *January 6, Environmental Protection* – (Texas) **Baylor study links phosphorus level to water, plant declines.** A new Baylor University (Texas) study funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found that concentrations of phosphorus above 20 parts per billion (ppb) are linked to declines in water quality and aquatic plant and animal life. The study, which is the first to use the new Baylor Experimental Aquatic Research (BEAR) stream facility, demonstrates with certainty that an amount of phosphorus over a certain level does cause negative changes observed in many Texas streams. According the scientific literature, nutrient pollution — specifically phosphorus — is the most common cause of poor water quality in lakes, streams and wetlands in the United States. In Texas, phosphorus has been identified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as the nutrient that would have the most effect in limiting algal and plant growth. However, until now, numerical nutrient criteria to control phosphorus levels have largely been developed subjectively and without experimental evidence to support them. The Baylor researchers collected water nutrient samples and measured algae and aquatic vegetation growth over a two-year period

from 26 different streams in Texas. They compared phosphorus levels to how much algae and aquatic vegetation was present.

Source: <http://eonline.com/articles/2010/01/06/baylor-study-links-phosphorus-level-to-water-plant-declines.aspx>

28. *January 6, WXIN 59 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Water main break closes 56th Street bridge.** Metro Police and the Indianapolis Department of Public Works have closed the 56th Street bridge over the Eagle Creek reservoir. The closed area includes Dandy Trail to Potters Pike. Crews on the scene say a water main break has caused issues near the bridge with water pouring from the ground. DPW says crews will be working through the night to repair the bridge and make it safe for motorists. This is a heavily traveled route from the west side of Indianapolis to Brownsburg. Crews are hoping to open at least one lane as soon as possible.

Source: <http://www.fox59.com/news/wxin-bridge-closed-010610,0,1026567.story>

29. *January 6, St. Louis Post-Dispatch* – (Missouri) **Industrial chemical found in Hannibal, Louisiana, Mo., water.** Drinking water in Hannibal and Louisiana, Missouri tested positive last month for hexavalent chromium, an industrial chemical. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources confirmed its investigation on January 6, but not soon enough to satisfy a state senator who says the department is once again failing to quickly notify the public about water-quality issues. The announcement by the state came a day after a Senate panel quizzed the department over the delayed release of high e-coli levels at Lake of the Ozarks last year. The Department of Natural Resources says it began looking at local water supplies downstream of the BASF plant in Hannibal after the company reported the accidental release of hexavalent chromium into the Mississippi River in late May. On December 22, the department received results that showed the chemical at 0.4 part per billion in Hannibal's treated drinking water and 0.1 part per billion in Louisiana's treated water. City officials in Hannibal were immediately notified, and a second round of samples were ordered. On December 31, the department received notification from the lab in Washington state where the samples were sent that they had inadvertently been contaminated and the results were invalid.

Source:

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/missouristateneews/story/02427FB95CDF4AFF862576A30082E9A9?OpenDocument>

30. *January 6, WRTV 6 Indianapolis* – (Indiana) **Frozen hydrants hinder Ind. crews.** Firefighters were severely hampered in their effort to douse a raging blaze Monday at a Texas Roadhouse because of fire hydrants that had been tampered with. With temperatures in the low teens, firefighters tried to tap into the three hydrants nearest to the Shadeland Avenue fire, only to find that all of them were frozen because they were not properly closed the last time they were used, said a Veolia Water spokesman. "Where we end up seeing problems is people use those hydrants without letting us know," he said. Fire officials said they spent an inordinate amount of time finding a hydrant that wasn't frozen, blocks away from the fire. Veolia asked anyone who suspects hydrant tampering to call them so the hydrant can be inspected again.

Source: <http://www.firehouse.com/topics/top-headlines/frozen-hydrants-hinder-ind-crews>

31. *January 5, WRAL 5 Raleigh* – (North Carolina) **Falls Lake pollution could require new treatment plant.** Raleigh, North Carolina, could be forced to spend more than \$250 million on a new water treatment plant because increasing pollution is overwhelming the current plant, according to city officials. Falls Lake provides drinking water for more than 450,000 Wake County residents, but runoff from farm fields and storm drains in Durham and Granville counties, near the lake's headwaters, has led to excessive algae growth and sediment. In a December 28 report to the city manager, the city's Public Utilities Department said the E. M. Johnson Water Treatment Plant cannot handle the growing amount of carbon in the lake that is being produced by runoff from developed areas and the algae and bacteria in the lake that thrive on other nutrients in the runoff. Algal blooms also have the potential to clog the filters at the treatment plant's intake pipe in the lake, diminishing its water treatment capacity, officials said. Expanding the plant to handle 100 million gallons a day, from the current capacity of 86 million gallons a day, and upgrading it with various options to treat the pollution could cost the city from \$265 million to \$341 million, according to the report. The state Environmental Management Commission and the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources have set a January 2011 deadline for putting a plan in place to clean up the lake. Raleigh officials have said they would like all pollution cleared from the lake by 2016.

Source: <http://www.wral.com/news/local/story/6746623/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

32. *January 6, Providence Journal* – (Rhode Island) **Faulty sprinkler prompts evacuation at RI Hospital.** Early Wednesday morning, a malfunctioning sprinkler head on the eighth floor of Rhode Island Hospital in Providence caused fire crews to evacuate a dozen patients there and a few in the intensive care unit on the floor below. Crews were called to the main hospital building at 2:10 a.m. when the hospital's fire alarm went off. They discovered a sprinkler head spraying water into an occupied patient room and substantial damage already in that room and on the entire wing. The health conditions of the patients who had to be moved were not in jeopardy. On the eighth floor, some of the patients appeared to be bedridden, and fire crews had to move them from their beds onto stretchers to get them into an elevator and onto another wing of the hospital and another building.

Source: <http://newsblog.projo.com/2010/01/faulty-sprinkler-requires-mino.html>

33. *January 6, Associated Press* – (Arkansas) **Feds: Revenge drove attack on Ark. med board chair.** A doctor who was punished after 10 of his patients fatally overdosed on drugs he prescribed sought revenge by bombing the chairman of the state medical board, leaving him severely burned and without an eye, a federal prosecutor said Wednesday in announcing new charges in the case. A grand jury indicted the man on

three charges in connection with the February 2009 attack on the chairman outside of his home in West Memphis. The most serious charge — using a weapon of mass destruction against a person or property — could land the man in prison for life if he is convicted.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory?id=9494380>

34. *January 6, New York Times* – (National) **FDA plans safety check of 3 drugs for anemia.** The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that it would review of the safety of the widely used anemia drugs sold by Amgen and Johnson & Johnson after another clinical trial suggested that high doses of one of the drugs might cause strokes. In a commentary published online Wednesday by The New England Journal of Medicine, agency officials wrote that the results of the new trial, as well as of previous trials, “raise major concerns” about the use of the drugs to treat the anemia caused by chronic kidney disease. The officials said the agency would convene an outside advisory committee to re-evaluate the use of the drugs in patients with kidney disease and to consider new ways to control doses of the products.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/07/business/07fda.html>

For another story, see item [6](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Facilities Sector

35. *January 7, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **Man risks arrest, pneumonia to jog naked near White House.** A man created a Secret Service scare near the White House during rush hour Wednesday evening when he stripped naked and took off running, leaving his bag of clothes unattended on the Ellipse. The man shed his clothes near 15th and E streets, at the northwest corner of the Ellipse, about 5 p.m. Wednesday, then began running up and down E Street. Secret Service and D.C. police officers chased the man after he refused to stop. He was apprehended. The bag into which he packed his clothes had been left unattended, meaning it had to be classified as a suspicious package. The Secret Service cordoned off the area and investigated the bag, and, after determining it contained only the man’s cast-off garments, cleared the scene. The man is in Secret Service custody but has not been charged, a spokesman said.

Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/01/06/AR2010010604636.html?wprss=rss_metro

36. *January 6, Associated Press* – (California) **Unmarked power line probed in Calif. copter crash.** Federal investigators scoured the site of a fatal helicopter crash in the Sierra Nevada mountains Wednesday, trying to determine whether it might have been caused by a lack of markings on a high-voltage power line spanning the river canyon. Three state scientists and the pilot were killed Tuesday when the Bell 206 helicopter clipped a Southern California Edison transmission line, sparking a blaze that consumed the craft and sent debris flying. The team had been conducting a deer survey in a craggy stretch of the mountain range where electric lines crisscross the canyons,

sucking up hydropower generated by dams. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) guidelines state that companies are responsible for placing lights and visible markers on power lines and towers that are higher than 200 feet above ground level, so that pilots can spot potential hazards, said a spokesman. A SoCal Edison spokesman confirmed Wednesday that the transmission line, in place for decades, was not marked. The FAA did not ask the company to mark it, he said. If investigators find that the utility company shirked its duty to mark the power line, it could be held partially legally responsible for the crash, experts said. The state Department of Fish and Game does aerial deer surveys each winter, but those involved acknowledge the voyages can be risky since they often involve flying close to the ground.

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/06/us/AP-US-Fatal-Helicopter-Crash.html?_r=1

37. *January 6, WECT 6 Wilmington* – (North Carolina) **Test results show signs of arsenic on school property.** Tests were done on the soil and groundwater near Castle Hayne Elementary and Holly Shelter Middle schools, which were both built near an EPA superfund site. A company called ECS Carolinas did the testing for the school system, after many parents expressed concerns about the schools being located close to an EPA superfund site. They took water and soil samples from multiple places on the school property. Officials had reportedly cleaned up the area, but test results show concentrations of arsenic that exceed the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Standards. Two of the samples that tested for high arsenic levels are just outside the building for Castle Hayne Elementary. Some parents say they have been worried about the school’s location since it opened.

Source: <http://www.wect.com/Global/story.asp?S=11774877>

38. *January 6, Bloomberg* – (International) **Swiss police give all clear after package causes embassy alert.** Swiss police gave the all clear after closing off a street and evacuating a school when a suspicious package was found near the U.S. embassy in the capital Bern. “The public wasn’t endangered at any time,” a cantonal police spokesman said. Security staff guarding the mission in the capital Bern noticed an “unattended package” and alerted the authorities, the spokesman said. The item turned out to be harmless, he said.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-01-06/swiss-police-give-all-clear-after-package-causes-embassy-alert.html>

For more stories, see items [2](#) and [21](#)

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

39. *January 7, Albany Times Union* – (New York) **Blaze hits Rensselaer firehouse.** Rensselaer, New York, firefighters found themselves answering a call Wednesday morning at one of their own firehouses. One firefighter was on duty at the soon-to-be-closed James Hill Hook and Ladder and Hose Co. firehouse at 42 Partition

St. when the kitchen caught fire. The fire chief said the 10 a.m. fire was apparently electrical. The firefighter was in the building next door, where Ladder Co. 1 is housed, washing the truck. When he returned to the old two-story building, he discovered the fire, he immediately sounded the alarm. Rensselaer, Clinton Heights and Defreestville firefighters responded to the scene. The ladder truck was used to fight the fire next door. Engine Co. 4, which is the reserve fire engine housed in the firehouse, was pulled out of the bay and across Partition Street to Third Street. It took firefighters about 30 minutes to extinguish the blaze. No injuries were reported.

Source:

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=885466&category=REGION>

40. *January 6, KPHO 5 Phoenix* – (Arizona) **Phoenix police investigating own crime lab.** CBS 5 News obtained sworn affidavits by Phoenix police crime lab technicians accusing their co-workers of committing errors that could botch investigations, including leaving evidence behind at scenes and disposing of fingerprint evidence. The statements were made in attempts to prove that lab employees are treated differently, depending on whether or not they are union members or not. “Some non-union employees have done things that could botch investigations, but nothing happens to them. Yet union members are criticized for relatively minor things,” said the union spokesman. A Phoenix Police Department spokesperson confirmed that they have launched an internal investigation to look into the allegations, but would not comment further until the investigation is complete.
Source: <http://www.kpho.com/news/22167696/detail.html>
41. *January 6, WNDU 16 South Bend* – (Michigan) **Man charged with felony after throwing homemade bombs at police station.** A man has pleaded guilty to throwing Molotov cocktails at the police station in New Buffalo, Michigan, according to reporting from the Herald Palladium. The 20-year-old says he threw the homemade bombs because he was mad about his friends’ arrests. None of the bombs caused any injuries or damage. The man is charged with a felony for making an explosive device and faces up to 15 years in prison.
Source: <http://www.wndu.com/localnews/headlines/80852347.html>
42. *January 4, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Rights group texts police sweep warnings.** An advocate for immigrant and civil rights has started using text messages to warn residents about crime sweeps by a high-profile Arizona sheriff. The director of the nonprofit immigrant advocacy group Respect/Respeto is the trunk of a sophisticated texting tree designed to alert thousands of people within minutes to the details of the sweeps, which critics contend are an excuse to round up illegal immigrants. The Maricopa County Sheriff said his opponents are walking a line between exercising free speech and breaking the law by helping immigration violators avoid detection. He said the texts are possibly even tipping off human-smuggling organizations.
Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2010/01/04/national/main6051585.shtml>

For another story, see item [30](#)

Information Technology Sector

43. *January 7, Computerworld* – (International) **Large-scale attacks exploit unpatched PDF bug.** A week before Adobe is scheduled to patch a critical vulnerability in its popular PDF software, hackers are actively exploiting the bug with both targeted and large-scale attacks, a security researcher said January 7. The SANS Institute's Internet Storm Center (ISC) reported on January 4 that they had received samples of a new rigged PDF document that hijacked PCs using a bug Adobe acknowledged December 14. Later last month, Adobe said it would not patch the bug until January 12. In his write-up of the sample, a ISC analyst called the attack PDF "sophisticated" and its use of egg-hunt shellcode "sneaky." "Egg-hunt shellcode" is a term for a multi-stage payload used when the hacker can't determine where in a process' address space the code will end up. A security intelligence manager at Symantec confirmed that the malicious PDF exploited the Adobe Reader and Acrobat vulnerability, but unlike the ISC analyst, said it wasn't out of the ordinary. "It's not particularly novel or sophisticated," the security intelligence manager said.

Source:

[http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9143259/Large scale attacks exploit unpatched PDF bug?taxonomyId=17](http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9143259/Large_scale_attacks_exploit_unpatched_PDF_bug?taxonomyId=17)

44. *January 7, SC Magazine* – (International) **Deployment of mobile security software is on the agenda for more than half of companies this year.** More than half of companies are planning to deploy mobile anti-virus products and services this year. According to the second part of the Mobile Security 2009 Survey by Goode Intelligence, 54 per cent of the organizations surveyed plan to deploy mobile anti-virus products and services, with 33 percent planning to deploy mobile anti-virus products and services by March 2010. The remaining 67 percent plan to deploy by September 2010. The survey reveals that while nearly 71 per cent of organizations currently feel that the threat from mobile phone viruses is low, this number drops significantly for the perceived threat by 2011, with only 21 percent believing the risk to be low and 29 percent forecasting that the risk will be high or very high. This rise in awareness and plans for deployment has been welcomed by Acumin Consulting who co-produced the report. The marketing manager said that it was "reassuring to see that mSecurity is being taken seriously and becoming more of a priority for the IT and security functions."

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/deployment-of-mobile-security-software-is-on-the-agenda-for-more-than-half-of-companies-this-year/article/160792/>

45. *January 7, The Register* – (International) **Easily spoofed traffic can crash routers, Juniper warns.** Juniper Networks is warning customers of a critical flaw in its gateway routers that allows attackers to crash the devices by sending them small amounts of easily-spoofed traffic. In an advisory sent on January 6, the networking company said a variety of devices could be forced to reboot by sending them internet packets with

maliciously formed TCP options. The flaw affects versions 3 through 10 of Junos, the operating system that powers devices at ISPs, backbones, and other large networks. Software releases built on or after January 28, 2009 have already fixed the issue. “The Junos kernel will crash (i.e. core) when a specifically crafted TCP option is received on a listening TCP port,” the bulletin, which was issued by Juniper’s technical assistance center, stated. “The packet cannot be filtered with Junos’s firewall filter. A router receiving this specific TCP packet will crash and reboot.” There are “no totally effective workarounds,” the bulletin added. It is unclear how many Juniper systems remain vulnerable or exactly when customers began installing patches. But the wording of the bulletin was enough to make some security watchers pay close heed, particularly since the Junos ACL, or access control list, was powerless to prevent the attacks.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/07/juniper_critical_router_bug/

46. *January 6, Computerworld* – (National) **FTC to examine cloud privacy concerns.** In a development likely to be closely watched by Google Inc., Amazon.com, Microsoft Corp. and other vendors, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is examining potential threats to consumer privacy and data security posed by cloud computing services. The agency will hold a roundtable session on January 28, and another later this year, to gather information from industry stakeholders and to study ways of protecting consumer privacy in cloud environments. The FTC plan was also detailed in a letter sent last month to the Federal Communications Commission. The letter was filed in response to a request for comment on a national broadband plan that is being drawn up by the FCC. In its letter, the FTC said it wants to be sure the FCC pays attention to technologies such as cloud computing and identity management in drawing up its plans. The letter, signed by the director of the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection, highlighted some of the cost benefits of cloud computing services but also expressed concerns at the associated risks. The letter, dated December 9, was dug up by The Hill blog, which reported the story recently. “The ability of cloud computing services to collect and centrally store increasing amounts of consumer data, combined with the ease with which such centrally stored data may be shared with others, create a risk that larger amounts of data may be used by entities in ways not originally intended or understood by consumers,” the director warned.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9143192/FTC_to_examine_cloud_privacy_concerns

47. *January 6, The Register* – (International) **Hacker pierces hardware firewalls with web page.** On January 5, a hacker demonstrated a way to identify a browser’s geographical location by exploiting weaknesses in many WiFi routers. Now, the same hacker is back with a simple method to penetrate hardware firewalls using little more than some javascript embedded in a webpage. By luring victims to a malicious link, the attacker can access virtually any service on their machine, even when it’s behind certain routers that automatically block it to the outside world. The method has been tested on a Belkin N1 Vision Wireless router, and the hacker says he suspects other devices are also vulnerable. “What this means is I can penetrate their firewall/router and connect to the port that I specified, even though the firewall should never forward

that port,” the hacker told the Register. “This defeats that security by visiting a simple web page. No authentication, XSS, user input, etc. is required.” The hacker’s proof-of-concept page forces the visitor to submit a hidden form on port 6667, the standard port for internet relay chat. Using a hidden value, the form surreptitiously coerces the victim to establish a DCC, or direct client-to-client, connection. Vulnerable routers will then automatically forward DCC traffic to the victim’s internal system, and using what’s known as NAT traversal an attacker can access any port that’s open on the local system. For the hack to work, the visitor must have an application such as file transfer protocol or session initiation protocol running on his machine. The hack does not guarantee an attacker will be able to compromise that service, but it does give the attacker the ability to probe it in the hope of finding a weak password or a vulnerability that will expose data or system resources.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2010/01/06/web_based_firewall_attack/

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at sos@us-cert.gov or visit their Web site: <http://www.us-cert.gov>

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Web site: <https://www.it-isac.org>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

48. *January 7, Associated Press* – (Rhode Island) **Glitch in some RI Verizon internet services.** Verizon says it is working to fix a glitch that has left some Rhode Island customers without Internet or video-on-demand services. Company officials said on January 7 they believe a router problem caused the outage. Verizon was unsure how many customers have been affected. Fiber optic television and telephone service are operating normally.

Source: <http://www.abc6.com/news/80915722.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

49. *January 7, Palm Springs Desert Sun* – (California) **Authorities say Spa Resort bomb threat was a hoax.** Authorities believe a bomb threat against the Agua Caliente Spa Resort Casino was a hoax and are looking for the man who made the threat Tuesday as he repeatedly phoned police, a Palm Springs police spokeswoman said. An unidentified man called police just before 5 a.m. Tuesday and threatened to blow up the casino, according to a police department spokeswoman. “Officers conducted a thorough check of the casino property and surrounding area and did not find anything suspicious,” she said. Police also notified casino management, which agreed to use its own security to keep customers safe from any threats, she added. Authorities were able to track a

cellular call to the 4000 block of Matthew Drive and sent officers to search the nearby residential area. The officers did not find anything suspicious, she said. She added that a report was taken on the calls and threats, and police are still trying to determine exactly who made the calls.

Source:

<http://www.mydesert.com/article/20100107/NEWS0801/1070313/1015/news08/Authorities-say-Spa-Resort-bomb-threat-was-a-hoax>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments and Icons Sector

50. *January 7, Gainesville Sun* – (Florida) **A controlled burn has been scheduled to clear a large swath of the forest in Columbia and Baker counties.** Large plumes of smoke should be expected around the Osceola National Forest throughout the day Thursday. A controlled burn has been scheduled to clear a large swath of the forest in Columbia and Baker counties. The U.S. Forest Service, with assistance from the Florida Division of Forestry, plans to burn 3,400 acres to clear underbrush that could serve as fuel during a forest or wildfire. Federal and state officials said the burn will be ignited by small capsules dropped from aircraft. Aerial ignition is being used because much of the area being burned is inaccessible to ground equipment.

Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100107/ARTICLES/100109698/1002>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

51. *January 6, Ogle County News* – (Oregon) **Massive ice jam makes Oregon dam disappear.** An ice jam just downstream has caused the water below the dam in the Rock River in Oregon to back up until it reached the same level as above the dam, hiding the dam from view on Monday afternoon. The river both above and below the dam was choked with ice chunks for miles, causing some minor flooding. The situation was much the same Tuesday. The Ogle County sheriff said Tuesday morning that while the dam remained hidden by ice, the water had stopped rising. He said flooding was occurring at Brooks Isle south of Oregon, Irwin Acres north of Oregon, and Oregon Park East near the dam. “We’ve got an ice jam from somewhere upstream from Brooks Isle all the way to Grand Detour,” he said. “It’s not major flood stage. No buildings are threatened as yet.” He said when the ice jams will break up is anyone’s guess. “It depends on the several factors, including the weather and how much force the water has to move the ice.” He said he will continue to monitor the river and keep residents informed if the flooding gets worse. Sand bags are available at the sheriff’s office in Oregon.

Source: <http://www.oglecountynews.com/articles/2010/01/06/54079318/index.xml>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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